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Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 SP-02 STR-04

TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-06 /093 W
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R 151729Z MAR 76
FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 761
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 1843
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
USMISSION NATO

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, ICFTU, SP
SUBJECT: ICFTU AND SPAIN

1. SUMMARY: DURING ITS MARCH 11-12 MEETING IN LUXEMBOURG,
THE ICFTU EXECUTIVE BOARD DISCUSSED THE SITUATION IN SPAIN
AND PASSED A RESOLUTION DENOUNCING GOS REPRESSION AND PLEDGING
ICFTU SUPPORT FOR TRADE UNION UNITY. SPANISH UGT LEADER
REDONDO ANNOUNCED THAT THE UGT CONGRESS WILL BE HELD IN MADRID
QPRIL 15-18. ACCORDING TO MISSION SOURCES WHO WERE PRESENT
DURING THE BOARD MEETING, IT WAS DECIDED THAT SOME DEGREE
OF COOPERATION WITH THE COMMUNIST COTROLLED WORKER COMMISSIONS
IN BRINGING ABOUT TRADE UNION UNITY IN SPAIN WAS UNAVOIDABLE
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BUT THERE WAS GENERAL CONSENSUS THAT CAUTION SHOULD BE THE

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BY-WORD IN DEALINGS WITH THE WORKER COMMISSIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. ACCORDING TO MISSION ICFTU SOURCES, DELIBERATIONS ON SPAIN AT THE LUXEMBOURG MEETING OF THE ICFTU EXECUTIVE BOARD WERE QUITE INTENSIVE. IT WAS DECIDED THAT THE ICFTU WOULD SEEK TO INCREASE ITS FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR IT SPANISH AFFILIATES, THE UGT AND STV, AND WOULD ALSO INCREASE ITS EFFORTS TO MOBILIZE PRESSURE IN FAVOR OF AN EARLY RETURN TO DEMOCRACY IN SPAIN. OUR SOURCES INDICATE THAT MANY OF THE BOARD MEMBERS WERE CONCERNED ABOUT THE ROLE OF THE WORKER COMMISSIONS IN FORGING TRADE UNION UNITY AND THAT THERE WAS GENERAL CONSENSUS THAT COOPERATION WITH THE COMMUNIST-CONTROLLED COMMISSIONS WAS UNAVOIDABLE AND "A NECESSARY RISK" WHICH SHOULD BE TAKEN WITH CAUTION AND WITH EYES WIDE OPEN. SPANISH UGT LEADER REDONDO REPORTEDLY TOLD THE BOARD MEMBERS THAT NOT ALL OF THE COMMISSIONS WERE COMMUNIST-CONTROLLED. HE ALSO SAID THAT WHILE THE WORKER COMMISSIONS WERE POLITICAL MOVEMENTS AND NOT TRADE UNIONS THAT THEY DID HAVE CONSIDERABLE INFLUENCE AND WERE A FORCE TO BE RECKONED WITH.

3. DURING A POST EXECUTIVE BOARD PRESS CONFERENCE ICFTU GENERAL SECRETARY KERSTEN AND REDONDO BOTH STRESSED THE POINT THAT THE WORKER COMMISSIONS ARE POLITICAL, IDEOLOGICALLY MOTIVATED ORGANIZATIONS, NOT TRADE UNIONS, THEY SOUGHT TO PORTRAY THE UGT AS THE ONLY LEGITIMATE "NATIONAL" TRADE UNION ORGANIZATION IN SPAIN. IN RESPONSE TO A REPORTER'S QUESTION ABOUT UGT STRENGTH, REDONDO ADMITTED THAT THE UGT MEMBERSHIP ONLY REPRESENTS ONE PERCENT OF SPANISH WORKERS BUT SAID THERE ARE SIGNS THAT MEMBERSHIP IS BEGINNING TO INCREASE. HE SAID THAT THE FACT THAT THE UGT WILL HOLD ITS CONGRESS IN MADRID APRIL 15-18 SHOULD ADD SOME IMPETUS TO UGT GROWTH AND INFLUENCE. KERSTEN TOLD NEWSMEN THAT THE UGT CONGRESS WAS ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED TO BE HELD IN BRUSSELS AND THAT THE DECISION TO HOLD IT IN MADRID WAS AN ACT OF SHEER COURAGE ON THE PART OF THE CGT LEADERSHIP. FOLLOWING THE PRESS CONFERENCE, THE SOFT SPOKEN AND UNASSUMING REDONDO TOLD THE MISSION LABOR ATTACHE THAT KERSTEN WAS EXAGGERATING THEIR COURAGE. HE SAID THAT IF IT WERE NOT FOR GOS LIBERALIZATION POLICIES, THE UGT LEADERSHIP WOULD NOT HAVE ATTEMPTED TO HOLD THE CONGRESS IN MADRID. HE DOES NOT ANTICIPATE ANY PROBLEMS WITH SPANISH
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AUTHORITIES.

4. THE TEXT OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD RESOLUTION ON SPAIN.
BEGIN TEXT: "THE ICFTU EXECUTIVE BOARD:
SALUTES THE STRUGGLE OF HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF WORKERS IN THE WHOLE OF SPAIN FOR THEIR LEGITIMATE CLAIMS AND FOR AUTHENTIC, REPRESENTATIVE, FREE AND DEMOCRATIC TRADE UNIONS;

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NOTES THE IRRELEVANCE AND TOTAL INEFFICIENCY OF THE OFFICIAL TRADE UNION ORGANISATION IN LABOUR CONFLICTS, WHICH MAKES THE RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF TRADE UNION FREEDOM MORE URGENT THAN EVER;

STATES THAT COMPLETE BREAK WITH THE EXISTING OFFICIAL TRADE UNION SYSTEM IS AN ESSENTIAL CONDITION FOR GENUINE DEMOCRATISATION OF THE PRESENT TOTALITARIAN STRUCTURES AND FOR THE RESTORATION OF FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY, BEING THE INDISPENSIBLE PREREQUISITE FOR THE PRESENCE AND FULL PARTICIPATION OF SPAIN IN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AND OTHER DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS;

DENOUNCES WITH THE UTMOST VIGOUR AND INDIGNATION THE FACT THAT WHILE THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES DEMOCRATISATION MEASURES FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE EUROPEAN PUBLIC OPINION IT HAS INTENSIFIED REPRESSION BY MURDERING WORKERS AT ELDA, VITORIA AND BILBAO, BY BRUTALLY DISPERSING WORKERS' DEMONSTRATIONS, BY CONSCRIPTING TRANSPORT, POSTAL AND AERONAUTICS' WORKERS, BY BRINGING THEIR LEADERS BEFORE MILITARY COURTS, BY ARRESTING MEMBERS OF DEMOCRATIC TRADE UNION ORGANISATIONS AND BY RIGOROUSLY APPLYING THE REPRESSIVE LEGISLATION;

SALUTES WITH EMOTION AND RESPECT THE VICTIMS OF REPRESSION AND EXPRESSED COMPLETE SOLIDARITY WITH THEIR FAMILIES AND FELLOW WORKERS AND WITH THE HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF WORKERS WHO IN SPAIN AND IN THE BASQUE COUNTRY IN PARTICULAR HAVE SHOWN THEIR INDIGNATION THROUGH LARGE-SCALE STRIKE ACTION;

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 SP-02 STR-04

TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-06 /093 W
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R 151729Z MAR 76
FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
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AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
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WARNS INTERNATIONAL AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL INSTITUTIONS, GOVERNMENTS, WORKERS AND PUBLIC OPINION IN GENERAL AGAINST THE ATTEMPT BY THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT TO MAKE ITSELF ACCEPTED AS THE LEGITIMATE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SPANISH PEOPLE, WHILE CONSERVING THE ANTIDEMOCRATIC STRUCTURE OF THE STATE AND PREVENTING THE PEOPLE FROM EXPRESSING THEMSELVES FREELY;

CALLS ON ALL AFFILIATES TO MAKE REPRESENTATIONS TO THEIR RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENTS TO BRING PRESSURE TO BEAR ON THE SPANISH REGIME, SO THAT THE FOLLOWING MAY BE ASSURED;
(A) THE IMMEDIATE, UNCONDITIONAL LIBERATION OF ALL POLITICAL AND TRADE UNION PRISONERS,

(B) THE REPEALING OF ALL REPRESSIVE LAWS AND THE SUPPRESSION OF ALL THE SPECIAL TRIBUNALS,
(C) THE POSSIBILITY FOR ALL POLITICAL REFUGEES TO RETURN FREELY TO THEIR COUNTRY,
(C) THE RECOGNITION OF EVERY LIBERTY FOR EVERY CITIZEN, WITHOUT ANY EXCLUSION, AS INDICATED IN THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS,
(E) THE ORGANISATION OF FREE ELECTIONS UNDER UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE;

REAFFIRMS ITS PROFOUND CONVICTION THAT THERE CANNOT BE A DEMOCRATIC REGIME WITHOUT A FREE AND INDEPENDENT TRADE UNION MOVEMENT AND VICE VERSA; THIS PRESUPPOSES THE ABROGATION OF TRADE UNION LEGISLATION IN FORCE AND CONSEQUENTLY THE SUPPRESSSION OF THE PRESENT "TRADE UNION" STRUCTURE;

SHARES AND SUPPORTS THE ASPIRATION OF THE SPANISH WORKERS

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TO TRADE UNION UNITY, CONVINCED THAT SUCH UNITY CAN ONLY
RESULT FROM THE WORKERS' OWN EFFORTS;

CALLS ON ALL AFFILIATED ORGANISATIONS AND THE INTERNATIONAL
TRADE SECRETARIATS TO PLACE ALLTHE NECESSARY MEANS AT
THE DISPOSAL OF THE AFFILIATED TRADE UNION ORGANISA-
TIONS, THE UGT AND STV, IN ORDER TO ESTABLISH A FREE
AND DEMOCRATIC TRADE UNION MOVEMENT EMBRACING ALL WORKERS
IN THE SPANISH STATE." END TEXT.HINTON

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